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Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-fifth session
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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session;

(b) Decides that the forty-sixth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2015;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

3. Programme review: topic to be determined.

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Health Organization

(c) Gender statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Poverty statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Crime statistics;

Documentation

Joint report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes

(f) Household surveys;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(g) Refugee statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Norway

(h) Civil registration and vital statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) International migration statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural and rural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Global Steering Committee on the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics

(c) Business registers;

Documentation

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

(d) International trade and economic globalization statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(e) Statistics of services;

Documentation

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

(f) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund

(g) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

Report of the Friends of the Chair on the International Comparison Programme

(h) Informal sector statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

(i) Integrated economic statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

6. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Environmental-economic accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

(c) Climate change statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Statistics for economies based on natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Statistics of human development;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Development Programme

(c) International economic and social classifications;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) sponsors

(e) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21)

(f) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) National quality assurance frameworks;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

(j) World Statistics Day;

Documentation
Report of the Secretary-General

(k) Regional statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Documentation

Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

(l) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(m) Broader measures of progress;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(n) Governance, peace and security statistics;

Documentation

Report of Cape Verde

(o) Coordination of statistical programmes in the United Nations system;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(p) Big data and modernization of statistical systems;

Documentation

Report of the Working Group

(q) Updates from the High Level Forum on Official Statistics and the Friday Seminar on Emerging Issues;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(r) Emerging issues.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council.

45/101
Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the report of the Friends of the Chair,[1] and expressed its sincere appreciation for the hard work in preparing the report and the background material;

(b) Supported in general the recommendations contained in the report;

(c) Welcomed the first draft of the implementation guidelines as an excellent starting point, and asked the Friends of the Chair group to continue its work on this important document; in this context, it invited countries to enrich the

[1] E/CN.3/2014/2.

implementation guidelines with further comments and submission of good country practices; and agreed that the guidelines should be a living document in the futur.;

(d) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to make the completed implementation guidelines available on an improved website dedicated to the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which would also contain relevant and up-to-date country documents such as statistical laws and examples of regional good practices, for example, in the implementation of codes of practice;

(e) Agreed that the guidelines on independence and addressing perceived violations as well as the extension of the applicability of the principles to the private sector require further reflection and clarification, and asked the Friends of the Chair group to continue its work in these areas, taking into account the comments and proposals made at the High Level Forum on Official Statistics and the Commission session;

(f) Underlined that the endorsement by the General Assembly provides a positive impetus to increase the visibility and enhance the understanding and awareness of the Fundamental Principles by bringing them to the attention of politicians, other data providers and the private sector, and also provides opportunities for capacity-building; and noted that the ongoing process towards the post-2015 development agenda is a unique opportunity to renew efforts for the implementation of the Fundamental Principles as a critical tool for accountability and transparency, and stressed, in this context, the important role of regional and subregional bodies;

(g) Emphasized that the essence of the Fundamental Principles must apply also to the international agencies, welcomed the announcement by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to work on the related "Principles governing international statistical activities", and urged the international organizations to strengthen their efforts to implement these Principles;

(h) Stressed the importance of national legislation to anchor the Fundamental Principles in countries and noted the many examples where the Principles have guided the formulation of statistical laws;

(i) Emphasized the importance of formulating dissemination strategy at the national, regional and global levels that will bring together producers, users and suppliers of official statistics to abide on the utilization of the Principles;

(j) Agreed with the need of continued monitoring of the implementation of the Principles at the national, regional and global levels (the latter in intervals no larger than five years) using various modes, such as self-assessment or peer review, as appropriate.

45/102
Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Bureau,[2] and supported the main recommendations presented therein;

(b) Emphasized the need to manage time effectively but also recognized the need for interactive professional exchange, which is at the core of the work of the Commission;

(c) Supported in particular the recommendation to strengthen the role of the Bureau to play an active role in the intersession period, consulting and informing countries and international organizations in the process;

(d) Invited the Bureau to implement the main recommendations for the next session of the Statistical Commission, thereby refining and/or clarifying the proposals with respect to the possibility for delegations to submit written statements, the content of the regional reports and the frequency of the review of working methods.

45/103
Programme review: broader measures of progress

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Congratulated the Friends of the Chair group on broader measures of progress on its thorough report[3] and excellent work done in a very short time, and commended in particular the active involvement of the Friends of the Chair with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Acknowledged the preparation of the statistical notes as an important tool to inform the deliberations of the Open Working Group, and requested the Friends of the Chair to finalize the notes based on the inputs received and submit them to the Working Group;

(c) Welcomed the work on the review of measures of sustainable development and human well-being, and requested that the stocktaking exercise be completed continuously, building on the inputs from countries and regions and work already done around the world, in particular taking into account the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on Measuring Sustainable Development (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Eurostat/Economic Commission for Europe);

(d) Reiterated the importance of an early and ongoing engagement of the statistical community at all levels, including the national level, in the design of the post-2015 goals and targets;

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[2] E/CN.3/2014/3.
[3] E/CN.3/2014/4.

(e) Requested the Friends of the Chair to continue to provide and facilitate statistical support in the process towards the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure that statistical considerations are appropriately taken into account and to continue the dialogue with the Open Working Group;

(f) Requested the Friends of the Chair to engage in the debate on the data revolution, and reiterated the critical need for adequate statistical capacity, both technical and institutional, and the need for coordinated efforts and investments to fill the data gaps and satisfy the new data requirements;

(g) Requested the Friends of the Chair to address the need for the development of new data sources, methods and methodologies resulting from the requirements of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into particular account the possibilities of new technologies;

(h) Suggested that the Friends of the Chair group include in its future work programme the issue of household surveys and their critical role in providing data for the post-2015 development agenda, and acknowledged the offer by the World Bank to take the lead in a consultative process to prepare a report for the consideration of the Commission in 2015;

(i) Stressed the importance of an integrated statistics approach and the work on a shared standard business architecture and information model to allow for efficiency gains specifically needed to meet the new demands of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda;

(j) Endorsed the proposed work programme of the Friends of the Chair, including the development of an implementation framework for the monitoring and measurement of the post-2015 development agenda in partnership and coordination with countries, regional and international organizations, as well as other stakeholders and donors that can support implementation;

(k) Requested the Friends of the Chair to report to the Commission at its forty-sixth session in 2015.

45/104
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,[4] and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Working Group over the past year.

(b) Endorsed the programme of work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, appreciated the priority given to addressing issues emerging from the implementation of *the System of National Accounts 2008*[5] (2008 SNA), urged the Working Group to expedite resolving such issues, and requested the Working Group to report on the outcomes to the Commission in due course;

[4] E/CN.3/2014/5.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29.

(c) Expressed appreciation for the activities undertaken by international organizations, regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries providing technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics;

(d) Appreciated the progress on the completion of a number of manuals, handbooks and guidelines that facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, urged the Working Group to expedite the development of the handbooks and guidelines within a stipulated timeline, and requested that these materials be made available in all the official languages of the United Nations;

(e) Requested the Working Group, the regional commissions and other international and regional organizations to harmonize the collection, validation and dissemination of the data collected from countries to avoid unnecessary duplication, taking into consideration the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange data transmission mechanism;

(f) Welcomed the report prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, in consultation with the Advisory Expert Group, selected countries and the Working Group, on ways to scale up the coordination, the advocacy and the resources for the implementation of the 2008 SNA at the national level;

(g) Recognized that to scale up the coordination, the advocacy and the resources for the implementation of the 2008 SNA at the national level requires an integrated statistics approach, adopted by the Commission for the global initiative on the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics and building on, and in support of, the ongoing regional statistical capacity development programmes;

(h) Confirmed that the scope of a capacity-building programme on integrated statistics and its ramifications for coordination and global governance mechanisms of such a programme extends beyond the remit of the mandate of the Working Group;

(i) Expressed the significant need for technical assistance to many developing countries in adopting an integrated statistics programme in support of the implementation of the 2008 SNA, in this context requested the development of an integrated business statistics programme and related guidelines on programme management;

(j) Recognized that countries should take ownership of the required actions for strengthening the statistical production process, institutional arrangements, and a communication strategy with users, to facilitate the compilation of the required scope and detail of economic statistics and national accounts, based on country priorities for evidence based policymaking;

(k) Supported the formation of a "friends of the chair" group to work out the modalities for establishing a harmonized integrated statistics programme, focusing on overcoming national issues in producing internationally comparable macroeconomic accounts, taking into consideration existing statistical capacity development programmes in close collaboration with the regional commissions and other international and regional organizations.

45/105
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting in advancing the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework;

(b) Welcomed the publication of the SEEA Central Framework and the issuing of its preliminary translations in the official languages of the United Nations;

(c) Recognized SEEA as an important statistical framework for the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals indicators, and requested the Committee of Experts to review the statistical notes prepared for the Open Working Group to ensure that SEEA is adequately reflected;

(d) Recognized the importance of mainstreaming SEEA in the national strategies for the development of statistics;

(e) Requested the Committee of Experts to continue its work in the development of technical notes, training material and courses and compilation guidelines in support of the SEEA implementation, and requested that attention be also paid to the compilation of basic statistics supporting the accounts;

(f) Urged the Committee of Experts to finalize the core tables and accounts resulting from the SEEA Central Framework to assist countries in the implementation of SEEA;

(g) Agreed to establish a technical committee on the SEEA Central Framework responsible for advancing the research agenda of the SEEA Central Framework, with focus on the classification of environmental activities and goods and services sector, and supporting the implementation of SEEA through preparing and reviewing technical material ensuring full consistency with the SEEA Central Framework;

(h) Stressed the importance of linking the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework with that of the *System of National Accounts 2008*;[5]

(i) Recognized the need for support in the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework, and requested the Committee to scale up the programme on the SEEA implementation, strengthen the capacity-building programme for developing countries and develop a campaign to raise funds for capacity-building at the country level;

(j) Requested the Committee of Experts to work in close cooperation with existing international initiatives on the development of tools and core tables and accounts as well as in the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework, for example, the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the development of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture (SEEA-Agri);

(k) Reiterated the importance of strengthening the dialogue with different stakeholders at the national level with, for example, representatives from the

Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry in charge of Environment and the geo-spatial community, first through sensitization and then the adoption of a modular approach to the implementation of SEEA;

(l) Welcomed the work of the Committee on the development of a communications strategy for SEEA, and noted the need for allocation of human and financial resources for the development of such a strategy;

(m) Agreed to establish a technical committee on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting to advance its research and testing agenda prioritizing those issues that could be solved in the short to medium term;

(n) Encouraged the Committee to establish cooperation with the geospatial community and with existing initiatives on the measurement and assessment of ecosystems, such as Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity;

(o) Requested that the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and the SEEA Applications and Extensions be issued and translated into the official languages of the United Nations as soon as possible.

45/106
International trade and economic globalization statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Appreciated the report on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization,[6] and congratulated the Friends of the Chair group for its work accomplished so far;

(b) Reiterated the importance of obtaining more clarity in the complex measurement issues of cross-border economic relations, as well as some of its social and environmental aspects;

(c) Requested the Friends of the Chair group to pay special attention to issues such as discrepancies in mirror statistics, institutional arrangements among data-compiling agencies, the legal aspects of sharing microdata, the complexities of obtaining information on the activities of multinational enterprises, the informal cross-border trade, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises, the data sources for global input-output tables, the importance and peculiarities of measuring intraregional trade and the relation of this work to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Assistance for Least Developed Countries;

(d) Requested the Friends of the Chair group to do a cost-benefit analysis of any recommendation requiring additional data sources, especially additional surveys, and thus creating an additional burden to respondents;

(e) Requested that the proposed conceptual framework be consistent with the existing framework of the System of National Accounts;

(f) Agreed with the initial proposals by the Friends of the Chair group regarding the overall scope of the conceptual framework and the schematic framework as an instrument for classifying the measurement issues, and requested

[6] E/CN.3/2014/7.

that the Commission be kept informed about the progress of the work of the group through intermediate consultation;

(g) Agreed with the proposal of the Friends of the Chair group to continue its preparation of the concept paper on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization taking into account related work done by the Economic Commission for Europe, Eurostat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development at the regional level, and to submit a report, including the conceptual framework, programme of work and coordination mechanism, to the Statistical Commission for consideration at its forty-sixth session in 2015.

45/107
Information and communications technology for development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development,[7] and congratulated the Partnership on the work carried out in the past years;

(b) Noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made in the availability of information and communications technology statistics, but also recognized the work still to be done;

(c) Noted the important role of information and communications technology statistics in tracking the global information society and in the post-2015 development debate, including in the discussion on the data revolution;

(d) Agreed with the recommendations contained in the report[7] on approaches to improve the availability and quality of information and communications technology statistics; and encouraged countries to increase national coordination in this area;

(e) Endorsed the revised core list of information and communications technology indicators,[8] and asked for its wide circulation so that countries and other agencies may use it as a reference;

(f) Asked the Partnership to continue reviewing the indicators in the light of rapid technological advances and the widespread use of information and communications technology.

(g) Recognized the importance of capacity-building activities, welcomed the support of the Partnership in this area, and urged development partners to provide assistance in this regard.

[7] E/CN.3/2014/8.
[8] Ibid., annex.

45/108
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme[9] and the progress in the implementation of the 2011 round of the Programme;

(b) Recognized that the International Comparison Programme is the largest and most in-depth worldwide statistical operation with 199 economies participating, and that the results will be very valuable to academics and decision makers alike;

(c) Expressed its gratitude to all of the partners who have supported the International Comparison Programme, in particular the national statistical offices, the donors, the Executive Board of the Programme, the Global Office at the World Bank, and the Technical Advisory Group, as well as the regional coordinating agencies, for providing technical assistance and financial support to the countries;

(d) Noted the advantages of the International Comparison Programme exercise, most notably capacity-building in the areas of national accounts, but also noted the challenges it posed for many countries and that recommendations for improvement would be submitted to the Global Office;

(e) Appreciated that the Executive Board at its eleventh meeting, on 2 March 2014, endorsed the results of the International Comparison Programme 2011 and agreed that they are ready for publication;

(f) Supported the two-staged approach for releasing summary results along with key documentation by 30 April 2014, followed by a comprehensive report that would include the full set of results and more comprehensive documentation in the summer of 2014, and noted that both reports would contain appropriate notes to reflect some methodological reservations that were voiced during meetings of the Executive Board;

(g) Congratulated Eurostat-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Western Asia for having published their regional results, and appreciated that the remaining regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean) would also publish their results in the coming months;

(h) Appreciated the increased efforts to convey the principles of the International Comparison Programme methodology through the publication of *Measuring the Real Size of the World Economy: The Framework, Methodology and Results of the International Comparison Programme — ICP*, in addition to the Operational Guidelines and Procedures for Measuring the Real Size of the World Economy;

(i) Agreed to establish the Friends of the Chair group to carry out the evaluation of the 2011 round and prepare an initial report for review at the forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission in 2015; appreciated the interest of India and Austria in serving as co-chairs and other countries in participating in the Friends of the Chair group; and requested the group to take into account regional

[9] E/CN.3/2014/9.

experiences in its work, such as the recommendations made by the Advisory Group on Statistics and endorsed by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians at its thirty-eighth session;

(j) Recognized the need to develop a new methodology and shorten the interval between the International Comparison Programme rounds in the future.

45/109
Disability statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics on disability statistics,[10] and commended the valuable work carried out by the Washington Group over the past years with the aim of improving the quality, availability and international comparability of disability statistics;

(b) Acknowledged the wide range of activities and accomplishments of the Washington Group, including developing and testing a short set of questions on functioning, which can be used in censuses or sample surveys;

(c) Noted, in this connection, the importance of considering the sensitivity and appropriateness of questions, when such questions are asked, while welcoming the extension of the Washington Group's scope of work to include the measurement of child disability;

(d) Recognized the importance of training and technical cooperation activities to be provided to countries to effectively build national capacity in measuring disability, and called for more workshops at the national and regional levels, addressing the possibility of using administrative records for the purpose of producing disability statistics, and providing guidance on the inclusion of developed questions in the 2020 round of censuses and surveys;

(e) Commended the fruitful collaboration of the Washington Group with the United Nations Children's Fund, particularly in developing the new questionnaire module on child functioning and disability for use in surveys, and that on environment and school participation to capture the environmental aspects of child disability;

(f) Welcomed the collaboration between the Washington Group and the World Health Organization on disability measurement, and encouraged the two parties to work closely together to develop the model disability survey instrument and to meet the objectives of both parties by including in the model survey the questions developed by the Washington Group, with a view to avoiding confusion and duplication of effort in this area;

(g) Supported the work programme of the Washington Group for 2014-2015, encouraging continued work on the extended question set on functioning for adult children, and suggested the expansion of the scope of work to include data analysis and the dissemination of disability statistics;

[10] E/CN.3/2014/10 and Corr.1.

(h) Took note of the change in the implementation timeline of the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases.

45/110
Big data and modernization of statistical systems

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on big data and the modernization of statistical systems;[11]

(b) Reiterated that big data constitute a source of information that cannot be ignored and that the global statistical community must organize itself and take urgent action to exploit the possibilities and harness the challenges effectively;

(c) Recognized the need to further investigate and share experiences on possible data sources, challenges and areas of use of big data for official statistics at the global level;

(d) Supported broadly the proposal to create a global working group on the use of big data for official statistics, which will manage the globally relevant issues, and requested that:

(i) The terms of reference and the mandate of the group be based on strategic considerations, such as the links to the post-2015 development agenda, the data revolution initiative and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(ii) The programme of work of the group would complement and avoid duplication of the work carried out by the regional commissions, subregional statistical forums such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Group on Statistics and other international statistical agencies;

(iii) The programme of work would pay special attention to the circumstances of developing countries, in particular the capacity constraints of the least developed countries;

(e) Requested the global working grour to include the following in its programme of work:

(i) To make an inventory of ongoing activities and concrete examples regarding the use of big data for official statistics at the regional, subregional and national levels;

(ii) To address the concerns of methodology, standards and norms, human resources, research, training, quality, volatility and, with priority, confidentiality, access to data and legislation related to big data;

(iii) To address the issue of obtaining "access at no cost" to big data from the private sector for official statistical purposes, as well as the issue of access to transborder data or access to data on transboundary phenomena;

(iv) To develop guidelines to classify the various types of big data sources and approaches,

[11] E/CN.3/2014/11.

(v) To develop methodological guidelines related to big data, including guidelines for all the legal aspects;

(vi) To formulate an adequate communication strategy for data providers and users on the issue of use of big data for official statistics;

(vii) To reach out to other communities, especially those more experienced in information technology issues or in the use of open data platforms;

(viii) To report to the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session in 2015 on the work done;

(f) Noted that China agreed to host a global conference on big data later in 2014.

45/111
Publications of the United Nations Statistics Division

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the publications programme of the Statistics Division,[12] and supported the idea of a comprehensive review of the Division's publication and dissemination strategy with a view to reorienting it, to the extent possible, towards electronic modes of publication with a reduction of print publications to a minimum for countries with special needs and those who request them;

(b) Insisted that high-quality translations of methodological publications into all official languages of the United Nations are critical for the successful implementation of global statistical norms and standards and for capacity-building in countries;

(c) Requested the Secretariat to ensure that such translations are made available and disseminated in print, when requested by the countries.

45/112
Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system,[13] and appreciated the work of the Friends of the Chair under the leadership of Mexico to analyse the elements of the United Nations statistical system and existing coordination mechanisms;

(b) Stressed that effective coordination is essential, especially in the area of data sharing in order to reduce the reporting burden on countries;

(c) Supported the long-term vision for an effective global data-collection mechanism.

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[12] E/CN.3.2014/12.
[13] E/CN.3/2014/13.

(d) Stressed the importance of effective coordination among the agencies of the United Nations system and the national statistical offices in order to promote the use of official statistics by the agencies and to avoid duplication and discrepancies in statistical sources;

(e) Endorsed the proposal that the United Nations chief statisticians hold regular meetings, and mandated the group to follow up on the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair for improved coordination and report back to the Commission.

45/113
World Statistics Day

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report by the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day,[14] and thanked the United Nations Statistics Division for the global consultation conducted in September 2013;

(b) Proposed to celebrate the next World Statistics Day on 20 October 2015;

(c) Agreed with the general theme for the next World Statistics Day: "Statistics for better decision-making — statistics for better development/life", but requested the Bureau to finalize the wording of the exact slogan in consultation with communications experts, taking into account that the theme could be more targeted according to country-specific issues emerging in the given year;

(d) Requested the Bureau to initiate and support the process of submitting a draft resolution to the General Assembly on World Statistics Day 2015;

(e) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to provide appropriate support to countries, regional and supranational organizations and thematic-oriented institutions in observance of World Statistics Day 2015 and to provide publicity material for the events being organized under the common theme.

45/114
Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific[15] on statistics development in the region and in particular its thematic orientation, advocating for a prominent role for statistics in the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) Extended its appreciation to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the preparation of a video showcasing statistical development in the region;

[14] E/CN.3.2014/14.
[15] E/CN.3.2014/15.

(c) Noted with appreciation the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in providing statistical training;

(d) Welcomed the progress made in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen statistics capacity through regional cooperation under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and noted, in that regard, the importance of investments in national statistical systems, the need to strengthen the quality of statistical products, the potential for sharing of best practices and working with subregional organizations;

(e) Noted the existing differences in the statistical capacities of the countries in the region, and stressed the importance of developing the statistical systems in countries with very limited capacities to meet at least the minimum requirements of the post-2015 development agenda;

(f) Stressed the importance of high-quality statistics as a tool for accountability and good governance and thus an element of the post-2015 development agenda, and noted, in this context, the recognition by many countries of the inclusion of statistics as a goal in its own right;

(g) Called for the development of better measures of statistical development, in close cooperation with the subregional statistical forums such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Group on Statistics.

45/115
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017, as set out in an informal background paper that had been circulated.

45/116
Information items

The Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics[16]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlements statistics[17]

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics[18]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on drug statistics: improving quality and availability[19]

[16] E/CN.3.2014/16.
[17] E/CN.3.2014/17.
[18] E/CN.3.2014/18.
[19] E/CN.3.2014/19 and Corr.1.

Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics[20]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on selected aspects of its cultural statistics programme[21]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Steering Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics[22]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics[23]

Report of the Secretary-General on statistics of international trade in services[24]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics[25]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices[26]

Report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic indicators[27]

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics[28]

Report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals[29]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical development[30]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information[31]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[32]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission[33]

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[20] E/CN.3.2014/20.
[21] E/CN.3.2014/21.
[22] E/CN.3.2014/22.
[23] E/CN.3.2014/23.
[24] E/CN.3.2014/24.
[25] E/CN.3.2014/25.
[26] E/CN.3.2014/26.
[27] E/CN.3.2014/27.
[28] E/CN.3.2014/28.
[29] E/CN.3.2014/29.
[30] E/CN.3.2014/30.
[31] E/CN.3.2014/31 and Corr.1.
[32] E/CN.3.2014/32.
[33] E/CN.3.2014/33.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 6th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2014. At its 1st meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2014/2) and heard an introductory statement by the representative of Germany.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, China, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Brazil, the United Republic of Tanzania, Hungary and Italy, as well as by the observers for Colombia, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Suriname, South Africa, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Egypt, Ecuador, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Canada, Greece, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Zambia, Indonesia and Haiti.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the State of Palestine (on behalf of all member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the International Statistical Institute, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the European Commission (Eurostat). Also at the 1st meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made concluding remarks.

4. At its 2nd meeting, also on 4 March, the Commission heard a further statement by the representative of Germany and concluding remarks by the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/101).

B. Working methods of the Statistical Commission

6. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2014. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau on the working methods of the Commission (E/CN.3/2014/3) and heard an introductory statement by the Chair.

7. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Angola, Japan and the United States, as well as by the observers for Suriname, the Philippines, Switzerland, Poland, Turkey and Mexico.

8. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

9. The Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

10. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/102).

C. Programme review: broader measures of progress

11. The Commission considered item 3 (c) on its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2014. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 March, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair group on broader measures of progress (E/CN.3/2014/4).

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 March, the representative of France made an introductory statement.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Cameroon, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, the United Republic of Tanzania, Oman, Italy and Brazil, as well as by the observers for the Maldives, Ethiopia, India, Switzerland, Poland, South Africa, Canada, the Philippines, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Egypt, Bangladesh, Turkmenistan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Australia, Ecuador, Ghana, the Bahamas and Tunisia.

14. Statements were also made by the observers for the Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Commission (Eurostat), the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

15. The representative of France made a further statement, following which the Commission heard concluding remarks from the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division.

Action taken by the Commission

16. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/103).

D. National accounts

17. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings on 4, 5 and 7 March 2014. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2014/5).

18. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 March, the observer for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) made an introductory statement.

19. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Cuba, Cameroon, Mongolia, Japan, New Zealand, China, Italy, Brazil, the Czech Republic and Barbados, as well as by the observers for Israel, Kuwait, Morocco, India, Jamaica and Zambia.

20. At the 3rd meeting, on 5 March, statements were made by the observers for Malaysia, Yemen, Bangladesh, Uganda, Australia, Finland, the Republic of Korea, Tonga, the Philippines, France, Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Senegal, Canada, the Gambia and Saudi Arabia.

21. Statements were also made by the observers for the European Union (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the Economic Commission for Europe and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

22. At the same meeting, the observer for OECD made a further statement, following which the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

23. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/104).

E. Environmental-economic accounting

24. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2014. At its 3rd meeting, on 5 March, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2014/6).

25. At the 3rd meeting, the representative of Australia made an introductory statement.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Sweden, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, the United States, Mongolia, the United Kingdom, Barbados, Germany, China, Brazil, the United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba and Italy, as well as by the observers for Samoa, Denmark, Senegal, Poland, Morocco, South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Switzerland, Norway, Belarus, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

27. Statements were also made by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

28. At the same meeting, the representative of Australia made a further statement, following which the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

29. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/105).

F. International trade and economic globalization statistics

30. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2014. At its 3rd meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization (E/CN.3/2014/7) and heard an introductory statement by the representative of Canada.

31. At the 3rd meeting, on 5 March, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Mongolia, the United States, the Dominican Republic, China and Sweden, as well as by the observers for Bangladesh, Spain, Turkey, Egypt, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Australia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tajikistan, Malaysia, Tonga, Mexico, Israel, Cabo Verde and Viet Nam.

32. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the observers for the World Trade Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe and the European Commission (Eurostat).

33. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada made a further statement, following which the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

34. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/106).

G. Information and communications technology for development

35. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2014. At its 3rd meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership

on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/CN.3/2014/8) and heard an introductory statement by the observer for the International Telecommunication Union.

36. At the 4th meeting, on 5 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Dominican Republic, the Russian Federation, Sweden and Italy, as well as by the observers for the Philippines, Azerbaijan, Vanuatu, Indonesia, Uruguay, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Finland, Mexico, Maldives, Malaysia and Chile.

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the observers for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Caribbean Community.

38. Also at the 4th meeting, the observer for ITU made a further statement, following which the Chief of the Environment and Energy Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

39. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda, and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/107).

H. International Comparison Programme

40. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2014. At its 4th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2014/9).

41. At the 4th meeting, on 5 March, the observer for the World Bank made an introductory statement.

42. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Barbados, Angola, the Russian Federation, China and Brazil, as well as the observers for India, Egypt, Yemen, Vanuatu, Austria, Saudi Arabia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Suriname, Tunisia, Chile, Morocco, the Bahamas, Maldives and Madagascar.

43. Statements were also made by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne and the African Development Bank.

44. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the World Bank made a further statement, following which the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

45. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its

agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/108).

I. Disability statistics

46. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 5 and 7 March 2014. At its 4th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2014/10 and Corr.1).

47. At the 4th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of the United States made an introductory statement.

48. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Mongolia, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Hungary, Sweden, Brazil, Italy and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as the observers for Turkey, Egypt, Ghana (on behalf of the African Union), Suriname, Yemen, Samoa, Indonesia, Poland, Tunisia, Tajikistan, Maldives, Peru, the Philippines, Haiti and Saudi Arabia.

49. Statements were also made by the observers for the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the European Commission (Eurostat) and UNICEF.

50. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States made a further statement, following which the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

51. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/109).

J. Big data and modernization of statistical systems

52. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 5, 6 and 7 March 2014. At its 4th meeting, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on big data and modernization of statistical systems (E/CN.3/2014/11) and heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

53. At the 5th meeting, on 6 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, the United Republic of Tanzania, Cameroon, the United States, Brazil, China, Sweden, Japan and the United Kingdom, as well as by the observers for Norway, Ireland, Finland, Suriname, the Philippines, Colombia, Mexico, Poland, Bangladesh, Qatar, Morocco, Turkey, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Viet Nam, Pakistan, Denmark, South Africa, Israel, Austria, Timor-Leste and Uganda.

54. Statements were also made by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat) and the International Statistical Institute.

55. Also at the 5th meeting, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs made concluding remarks and the observers for the European Commission and South Africa made further statements.

Action taken by the Commission

56. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/110).

K. Publications of the United Nations Statistics Division

57. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the publications of the United Nations Statistics Division (E/CN.3/2014/12) and heard an introductory statement by the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division.

58. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Japan, as well as by the observers for Jordan, Yemen, Finland, Turkey, Bangladesh and France.

59. Also at the 5th meeting, the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

60. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/111).

L. Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system

61. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system (E/CN.3/2014/13) and heard an introductory statement by the representative of Mexico.

62. At the 5th meeting, on 6 March, statements were made by the observers for Bangladesh, Mozambique and Saudi Arabia.

63. The representative of Mexico made a further statement, following which the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

64. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its

agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/112).

M. World Statistics Day

65. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General containing a proposal to organize World Statistics Day 2015, and related recommendations based on a global consultation process conducted late in 2013 (E/CN.3/2014/14).

66. At the 5th meeting, on 6 March, a representative of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

67. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, the Dominican Republic, China, Japan and Italy, as well as by the observers for Turkey, Turkmenistan, Egypt, Bangladesh, the Philippines, the Bahamas, Uganda, Ethiopia, Suriname and Canada.

68. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Statistical Institute, following which a representative of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

69. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/113).

N. Regional statistical development

70. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (E/CN.3/2014/15) and heard an introductory statement by the observer for ESCAP.

71. At the 5th meeting, on 6 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Japan, the Russian Federation, China and Mongolia, as well as by the observers for Papua New Guinea (on behalf of the Pacific Island States), Bangladesh, the Philippines, Nigeria (on behalf of the African Union), Bhutan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Maldives.

72. Following a further statement by the observer for ESCAP, the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

73. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (n) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/114).

Chapter III
Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 (sub-items (a) to (r)) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014.

2. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the Dominican Republic, Cameroon and Cuba, as well as by the observer for Bangladesh.

3. The observer for the International Labour Organization also made a statement.

A. Demographic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2014/16).

5. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2014/16) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

B. Human settlements statistics

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2014/17).

7. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2014/17) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

C. Gender statistics

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2014/18).

9. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2014/18). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

D. Drugs and drug use statistics

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on drugs statistics (E/CN.3/2014/19 and Corr.1).

11. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on drugs statistics (E/CN.3/2014/19 and Corr.1) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

E. International migration statistics

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics (E/CN.3/2014/20).

13. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics (E/CN.3/2014/20) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

F. Culture statistics

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on selected aspects of its cultural statistics programme (E/CN.3/2014/21).

15. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on selected aspects of its cultural statistics programme (E/CN.3/2014/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

G. Agricultural and rural statistics

Action taken by the Commission

16. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Steering Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (E/CN.3/2014/22).

17. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Steering Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (E/CN.3/2014/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

H. Energy statistics

Action taken by the Commission

18. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2014/23).

19. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2014/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

I. Statistics of international trade in services

Action taken by the Commission

20. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on statistics of international trade in services (E/CN.3/2014/24).

21. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on statistics of international trade in services (E/CN.3/2014/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

J. Tourism statistics

Action taken by the Commission

22. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2014/25).

23. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2014/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

K. Price statistics

Action taken by the Commission

24. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2014/26).

25. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2014/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

L. Short-term economic indicators

Action taken by the Commission

26. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic indicators (E/CN.3/2014/27).

27. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General short-term economic indicators (E/CN.3/2014/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

M. Environment statistics

Action taken by the Commission

28. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2014/28).

29. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2014/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

N. Development indicators

Action taken by the Commission

30. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2014/29).

31. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2014/29) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

O. Statistical capacity-building

Action taken by the Commission

32. The Commission considered item 4 (o) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical development (E/CN.3/2014/30).

33. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report the World Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical development (E/CN.3/2014/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

P. Integration of statistical and geospatial information

Action taken by the Commission

34. The Commission considered item 4 (p) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2014/31 and Corr.1).

35. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2014/31 and Corr.1) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

Q. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

36. The Commission considered item 4 (q) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2014/32).

37. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2014/32) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

R. Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Action taken by the Commission

38. The Commission considered item 4 (r) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 7 March 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2014/33).

39. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2014/33) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/116).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 7 March 2014, and, in that context, it heard an oral report from the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division.

2. Statements were made by the observers for Canada, Bangladesh and South Africa, following which the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

3. Also at the 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017, as set out in an informal background paper that had been circulated (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/115).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 7 March 2014. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by a representative of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division:

(a) Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2014/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2014-2017 (E/CN.3/2014/34).

2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cameroon, Angola, Brazil and Japan, as well as by the observers for Norway, Cabo Verde, Spain, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), South Africa, Mexico, France, Canada, Yemen, Luxembourg, Timor-Leste, Ecuador, Azerbaijan, Ghana and Switzerland.

3. A statement was also made by the observer for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

4. The Acting Director of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. Also at its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its forty-sixth session, as outlined in document E/CN.3/2014/L.2, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

6. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its forty-sixth session be held from 3 to 6 March 2015 (see chap. I, sect. A).

7. Also at its 6th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2014-2017 (E/CN.3/2014/34).

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 7 March 2014.

2. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session (E/CN.3/2014/L.3), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements on the text of the informal paper were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Netherlands, Italy, Barbados, the Russian Federation, the United States, China, Japan, Brazil and the Dominican Republic, as well as by the observers for Suriname, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Kuwait, India, Senegal, Spain, the Bahamas, Ireland, New Zealand, Finland, Pakistan, Ecuador, Canada, Colombia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Egypt, Turkey, Samoa, the Philippines and Bhutan.

4. Statements were also made by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat) and the Economic Commission for Europe.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its forty-fifth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Chair made a statement.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 7 March 2014. The Commission held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 24 States members, observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, as well as representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2014/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March 2014, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Jil Matheson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Vice-Chairs:
Jiantang Ma (China)
Pablo Tactuk (Dominican Republic)
Gabriela Vukovich (Hungary)

Rapporteur:
Joseph Tedou (Cameroon)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. Also at its 1st meeting, on 4 March 2014, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2014/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
   (b) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;
   (c) Programme review: broader measures of progress;
   (d) National accounts;
   (e) Environmental-economic accounting;

(f) International trade and economic globalization statistics;

(g) Information and communications technology for development;

(h) International Comparison Programme;

(i) Disability statistics;

(j) Big data and modernization of statistical systems;

(k) Publications of the United Nations Statistics Division;

(l) Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system;

(m) World Statistics Day;

(n) Regional statistical development.

4. Items for information:

(a) Demographic statistics;

(b) Human settlements statistics;

(c) Gender statistics;

(d) Drugs and drug use statistics;

(e) International migration statistics;

(f) Culture statistics;

(g) Agricultural and rural statistics;

(h) Energy statistics;

(i) Statistics of international trade in services;

(j) Tourism statistics;

(k) Price statistics;

(l) Short-term economic indicators;

(m) Environment statistics;

(n) Development indicators;

(o) Statistical capacity-building;

(p) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

(q) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(r) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2014/L.1).

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at its forty-fifth session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the Eurasian Economic Commission; the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne; the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

E. Documentation

7. At its forty-fifth session, the Statistical Commission was serviced by the traditional document distribution and print-on-demand services, as needed. In addition, the session was facilitated by PaperSmart services. Most of the documents considered by the Commission were available for participants to download electronically through the PaperSmart portal. Hard copies were also distributed in the conference room on demand.

8. The documents of the session are also available from the website of the United Nations Statistics Division, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2014.htm.

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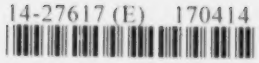

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